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Letter dated 24 January 2014 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I refer to Security Council resolution 2056 (2012), in which the Council requested me to develop and implement, in consultation with regional organizations, a United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel region, and to resolution 2071 (2012), in which the Council welcomed my appointment of a Special Envoy for the Sahel to mobilize international efforts, coordinate the implementation of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel and engage actively in defining the parameters of a comprehensive solution to the Malian crisis. I also refer to the statement by the President of the Security Council of 16 July 2013 (S/PRST/2013/10), in which the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA) was requested to establish an effective and detailed coordination mechanism to prioritize activities and to ensure coordinated implementation by the United Nations system of the United Nations strategy for the Sahel. In the presidential statement of 12 December 2013 (S/PRST/2013/20), the Council welcomed the work undertaken by UNOWA in coordination with the Office of my Special Envoy for the Sahel and relevant United Nations entities working in the Sahel region to establish an effective and detailed coordination mechanism to prioritize activities and to ensure coordinated implementation by the United Nations system of the United Nations strategy.

As you know, the appointment of my Special Envoy for the Sahel, Romano Prodi, has been extended until 31 January 2014. During that time, the Office of the Special Envoy has been co-located with UNOWA in Dakar effective 1 January 2014. By the present letter, I would like to inform you that, as at 1 February 2014, responsibility for the implementation of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel will be entrusted to the United Nations system in the region by placing the Office of the Special Envoy under the overall authority of my Special Representative for West Africa, who will also be supported by the Office.

I also take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation to my Special Envoy for the Sahel, who successfully raised awareness about the challenges facing the Sahel and developed the United Nations integrated strategy for the region. I would like to thank him in particular for exploring ways to improve the efficiency and efficacy of multilateral assistance to the Sahel region by reaching out to partners such as the World Bank and the African Development Bank.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

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